THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Approximately 90-95% flights are cleared within 45 minutes which confirms to the time period stipulated in International Civil Aviation Organisation guidelines.

(b) and (c) Operation of more immigration desks involves more infrastructure, space and manpower. However, within existing infrastructure endeavour has always been made to man all immigration counters especially during bunching of flights at peak hours by dynamic deployment.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. The officers are imparted adequate training including training on behaviourial aspects before their actual deployment.

Extension of Pantnagar Airport

†591. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Uttaranchal has made a request for the extension of the Pantnagar airport and also to start regular flights of the small airlines from there;

(b) if so, the details of the request received from the State Government;

(c) whether the Ministry have taken necessary steps for the extension of the said airport; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) State Government of Uttaranchal has offered additional land to develop Pantnagar airports in a phased manner, initially for 50-seater type of aircraft and subsequently for B-737-400 type of aircraft.

(c) and (d) The action has already been initiated by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to extend the runway from 3800 ft. to 4200 ft. and improve other facilities for operation of 50-seater type of aircraft.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.